

Eliminate “Foreign” Causes, Replace System in Control with Responsible System Transition

The NERC Transmission Availability Data System (TADS) data reporting requirements to report the actual cause required that BPA remove its “Foreign” causes. The notion of “foreign” (along with “system in control”) is being transferred to a field called “responsible system.” This paper documents how the transition was made on May 21, 2014.

RESPONSIBLE SYSTEM

What system is responsible for the outage? In the case of automatic outages, on whose system did the outage occur? In the case of planned outages, who initially requested the outage?

Customer Point of Delivery

Code	Definition	
	Automatic	Planned
BPA	Outage occurred on BPA’s system	BPA requested the outage
Customer	Outage occurred on customer’s system	Customer requested the outage
Other Customer	Outage occurred on other customer’s system (i.e. not this customer’s system) however this customer was impacted.	Other customer requested the outage (i.e. not this customer) however this customer was impacted.
Reliability	n/a	Reliability Coordinator requested the outage
Transferor	Outage occurred on transferor’s system	Transferor requested the outage
Unknown	Unable to determine on whose system the outage occurred	n/a

Line & Transformer

Code	Definition	
	Automatic	Planned
BPA	Outage occurred on BPA’s system	BPA requested the outage
Foreign	Outage occurred on foreign system	Foreign system requested the outage
Reliability	n/a	Reliability Coordinator requested the outage
Unknown	Unable to determine on whose system the outage occurred	n/a

FOREIGN CAUSES/SYSTEM IN CONTROL

The “Foreign Trouble, Foreign Utility, and Foreign Request” causes were removed on May 21, 2014. Outages from that date forward that would previously have been given a “foreign” cause will instead be given the actual cause. Outages recorded with “foreign” causes prior to May 21 will be translated using the look-up tables below.

In summary, “foreign”-caused outages will be removed from future and past outages.

Customer Point of Delivery	
Cause	
Old	New
Description	Description
Foreign Trouble	Not Reported ²
Foreign Utility	Human Element ¹
Foreign Request	Proximity/Other ²
<i>All other causes</i>	<i>No change</i>
System in Control	
Old	New
Description	Description
BPA Trouble	BPA
BPA Request	
Customer Trouble	Customer
Customer Request	
Other Customer Trouble	Other Customer
Other Customer Request	
Transferor Trouble	Transferor
Transferor Request	
Unknown Trouble	Unknown

¹ Next rung up in the cause hierarchy is used.

² New cause effective on the transition date.

Line & Transformer			
Cause		System in Control	Responsible System
Old	New	Old	New
Description	Description	Description	Description
Foreign Trouble	Not Reported ²	n/a ³	Foreign
Foreign Utility	Human Element ¹	n/a ³	Foreign
Foreign Request	Proximity/Other ²	n/a ³	Foreign
Unknown	Unknown	n/a ³	Unknown
Maintenance – TOp	Maintenance – TOp	n/a ³	Foreign
<i>All other causes</i>	<i>No change</i>	n/a ³	BPA

¹ Next rung up in the cause hierarchy is used.

² New cause effective on the transition date.

³ System in Control did not exist for lines and transformers prior to the transition date.

IMPACT ON OUTAGE REPORTS

The Daily Interruptions Report (DIR) reflects a snapshot in time. As a consequence, reports accessed via the DIR portion of the website will reflect the old causes and system in control codes prior to May 21st and new causes and responsible system codes on May 21st and into the future.

Unlike the DIR, the “YTD-14” Calendar Year portion of the website is updated daily based on a query to the outage database. On May 21st this report will reflect the new causes and responsible system codes for the entire year. (Reports for the earlier calendar years will transition to the new causes and responsible system codes as time permits.)

Finally, the “Automatic Transmission Line Outage Counts & Durations, By Year & Voltage Class, Plus Outage Causes, 1999-2008 (10 Years)” is a static report. It reflects the old causes and system in control codes.